



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Veterinary Services

National Animal
Health Policy and
Programs

4700 River Road
Unit 33
Riverdale, MD 20737

(301) 734-8093
FAX (301) 734-8818

March 4, 2005

**Subject: BSE Minimal-Risk Regions and Importation of Live Animals and
Commodities from Canada
Delay of Effective Date**

To: Importers, Brokers and Other Interested Parties

On January 4, 2005, the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) published a final rule which amended the regulations to provide for the importation of certain ruminants, ruminant products and byproducts from regions that pose a minimal risk of introducing bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) into the United States, and designated Canada as the first minimal-risk region (70 FR 460-553, Docket No. 03-080-3). The effective date of the final rule was to be March 7, 2005.

However, on March 2, 2005 the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana granted a preliminary injunction to prevent the implementation of the minimal risk rule until the R-CALF lawsuit is considered on the merits by the court.

Therefore, until further notice, the current import requirements for ruminant and ruminant commodities from Canada will remain unchanged. Only those commodities that were listed in the August 15, 2003 notice (republished May 6, 2004) will be eligible for importation from Canada, under the risk-mitigation measures specified in that notice.

Jere L. Dick
Associate Deputy Administrator
National Animal Health Policy and Programs



Safeguarding American Agriculture

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